

Application Serial No. 10/771,871
Amendment dated July 2, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated March 30, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3A. This sheet, which includes Figs. 3A and 3B, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 3A and 3B. In Fig. 3A, previously included reference numeral 65 and its corresponding lead line have been deleted.

Enc. Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes Made

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 24-26, 33-45, 52, and 56-59 are pending. Claims 1-23, 27-32, 46-51, and 53-55 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected Claims 25, 39, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for lacking proper antecedent basis. Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the limitation "said drill guides" is not properly supported in the Claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation "said drill guides" is properly supported in Claims 25, 39, and 45 by the phrase "a plurality of individually positionable drill guides" in Claims 24, 38, and 43, from which Claims 25, 39, and 45, respectively, depend.

Allowed Claims

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for the allowance of independent Claims 34-38, 40-43, 45, and 57-59. Additionally, the Examiner indicated that Claims 24, 26, 33, 52, and 56 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Responsive thereto, Applicants have rewritten Claims 24 and 33 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the respective independent claims and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 24, 33, 34, 41, and 57, as well as Claims 25, 26, 35-40, 42-45, 52, 56, and 58-59, respectively, which depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.


It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at 260-424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enc. Return Postcard

CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: July 2, 2007

MATTHEW B. SKAGGS, REG. NO. 55,814

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

July 2, 2007

Date

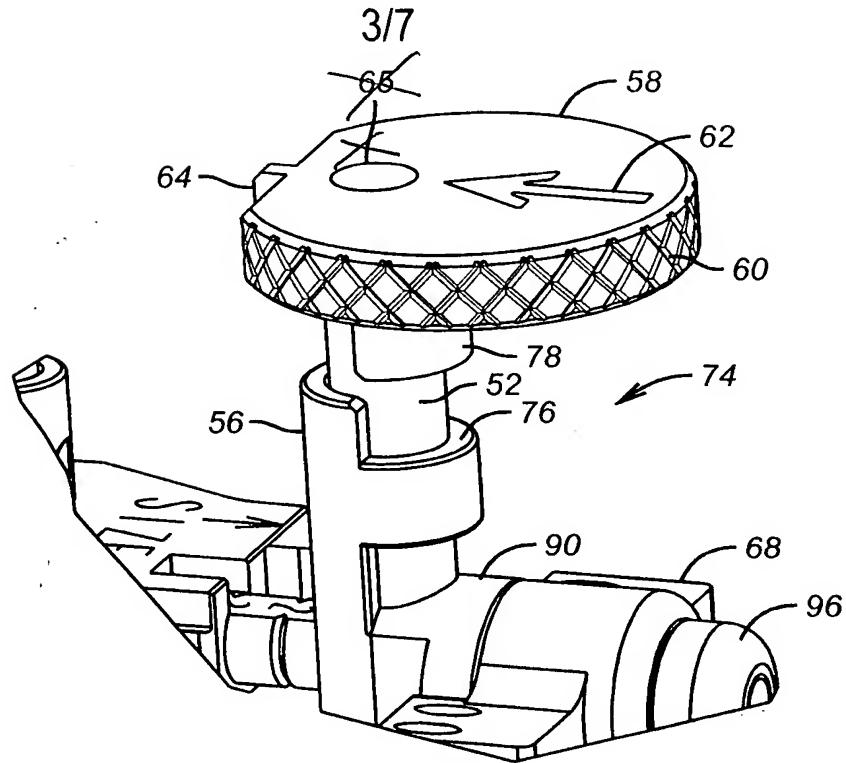


FIG. 3A

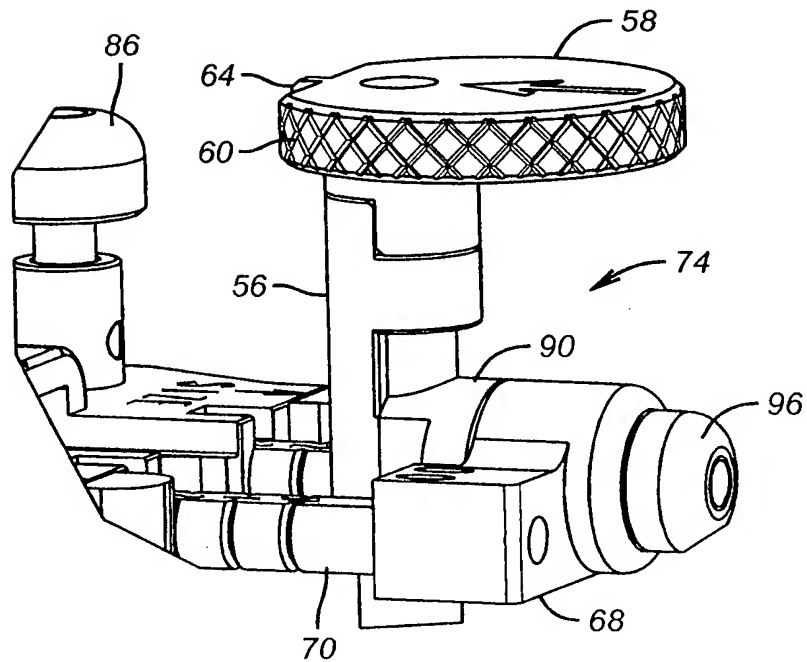


FIG. 3B